# HISTORICAL SOUVENIR

WX 28 AP4 H3H8

... OF THE ...

## HARRISBURG CITY HOSPITAL

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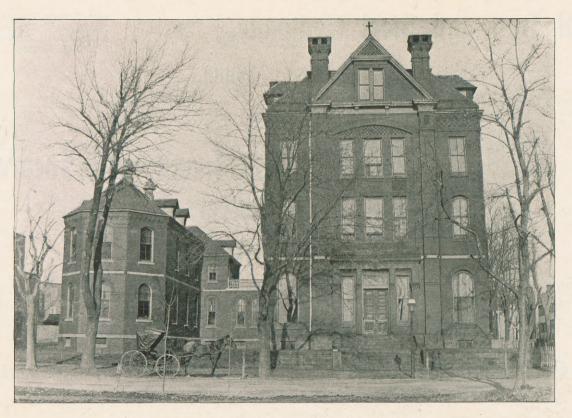
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### Brief Statement.

• • •

The Harrisburg Hospital was incorporated April 4, 1873, and dedicated August 4, 1873. On the next day the first patients were received, and from that date until the present the Divine blessing seems to have been upon the institution, supplying all needs that have arisen from time to time, and moving the hearts of many to contribute to its support.

It had a very modest beginning, but as the years have passed and gone the work has enlarged to such an extent that thousands have been benefited, and not a few of this number will never cease to be grateful to the institution that nursed them back to health and strength.

From August 5, 1873, the date the Hospital was opened, to March 31, 1896, there were treated in all departments 59,298; admitted to the Hospital, 5,528; total number of deaths, including persons who were when admitted beyond all hope of successful treatment, 456.

A glorious record, and one that will stand for time and eternity. There are many still with us who remember when the work was begun in the old brick school house on Mulberry near Front street, and a goodly number have maintained their early interest throughout the long years that have intervened, while not a few have been called to their long home. God has never failed to raise up helpers just at the right time, always when they were needed, and for whatever has been accomplished by way of helping the afflicted, to him be all the glory.

The present building, with the new additions, was the gift of public-spirited citizens charitably inclined toward their fellow men, and it is a model one in which to carry on this great work. Improvements are made from time to time as they become necessary. It might be well to state right here that the Hospital has no regular income for support, either from public appropriation or from endowment funds, and it takes from ten to fifteen thousand dollars annually for current expenses. In bestowing your gifts; therefore, don't forget the Hospital, for surely there is no charity more worthy of cordial support than this one. Visitors are welcome every day from 2 to 4 p. m., Sundays excepted.

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S. F. Hassler, M. D.,

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Hiram McGowan,
John Oenslager,

Consulting Physician.

Anwsthetist.

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1882

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### Some Early History.

#### • • •

#### Taken From an Old Report.

On the evening of the 3rd of December, 1872, a meeting took place in the Directors' room of the Harrisburg National Bank for conference in relation to the establishment of an Hospital and Dispensary in the city of Harrisburg. The following named gentlemen were present: James McCormick, Jr., Henry McCormick, J. Donald Cameron, William Calder, James W. Weir, A. Boyd Hamilton, James Fleming, W. O. Hickok, Herman Alricks, Wayne McVeagh, David Fleming, Henry Gilbert and Rudolph F. Kelker.

A Committee was appointed to take the matter into consideration to confer with the Commissioners and Directors of the Poor of Dauphin county, and to report at a meeting to be held one week later. On the 10th of December this Committee reported progress, and were continued

All efforts to secure the co-operation of the county authorities having failed, another meeting of those interested was held on the 25th of February, 1873, at which it was resolved to establish a Hospital and Dispensary. Committees were appointed severally to draft proper regulations, to raise money, and to rent a house suitable

for a hospital. On the 18th of March, the form of a charter was approved and subscriptions to the amount of \$4,335 reported. It was found impossible to rent a suitable house. The proper committee was then authorized to purchase a property, and the officers empowered to call a future meeting of contributors. On the 20th of May Committees reported that the contributors had been incorporated by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania on the 4th day of April, 1873; and that the large brick school house with lot of ground 85 by 105 feet, situated on Mulberry near Front street, had been purchased for the sum of \$7,000. The charter was accepted and the purchase ratified.

Pursuant to an authorized call the contributors assembled on the 31st of May, in the lecture room of the First Presbyterian Church. Rudolph F. Kelker was appointed Chairman, and A. Boyd Hamilton Secretary. By request James W. Weir invoked the Divine blessing upon the enterprise. Jones Wister and Dr. Henry L. Orth were chosen tellers, and an election for managers held with the following result: J. D. Cameron, William Calder, Henry McCormick, James McCormick,

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On the 4th day of August, 1873, this work having been accomplished, the Hospital was formally dedicated with religious services. In accordance with the invitation, a large number of ladies and gentlemen were present, as were the officers of the institution and those who had contributed to its purchase and outfit.

Prayer was offered by Rev. R. J. Keeling, of St. Stephen's Episcopal church.

Col. Henry McCormick read the reports of the committees on collection of funds and repairs to building.

As directed in the programme, Rudolph F. Kelker made a verbal report of the success with which Providence had crowned the efforts of those who had projected the institution. Robert A. Lamberton, Esq., then delivered an eloquent address, in which he gave a concise history of the inception and progress of the work, and made an earnest appeal to those present to continue their liberal support.

Rev. James Calder, D. D., offered the closing prayer and benediction, and the Hospital was then declared formally opened.

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Names in *Italics* designate such persons as were, by reason of a contribution of thirty dollars or upwards, *Corporate Contributors* at the election held for Managers on the 31st day of May, 1873.

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Peter K. Boyd,	William Calder,
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Grace Methodist Episcopal (State street), one.

R. Ferriday's Class, Seventh Street Presbyterian, one.

James McCormick's Bible Class, Pine Street Presbyterian, one.

Mrs. S. T. Charlton's Class, Pine Street Presbyterian, one.

Lower Department Sunday-school, Pine Street Presbyterian, one.

Seventh Street Presbyterian, one.

St. Stephen's Protestant Episcopal, two.

Miss Kate Bigler's Class, Episcopal, one.

Mrs. Martha Orth's Class, First Presbyterian, one.

Ridge Avenue Methodist Episcopal, one.

Fourth Street Lutheran, one.

St. Paul's Episcopal, one.

First Reformed, Chestnut street, one.

Free Baptist, Fourth and State, one.

Mrs. David Fleming's Class, First Presbyterian, one.

J. W. Sheets' Class, First Lutheran, one.

The State Capital Lodge, I. O. O. F., and C. L. Bowman, Esq., also each contributed thirty dollars, which sums were for and applied to the same object.

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### Ladies' Aid Society.

#### A Movement Among the Women that has not been without Results.

On March 1, 1888, fifteen years after the Hospital was established the following resolution was unanimously passed by the Board of Managers, "Resolved, that the ladies of Harrisburg and vicinity be invited to organize a society, the object of which will be to render such aid and advice as may promote the usefulness and efficiency of the Hospital.

Resolved, that the ladies through their committee or committees be invited to visit and inspect the several departments regularly, subject to the standing rules and regulations, and while it is not contemplated that they should interfere with the constituted authorities of the Hospital in the executing of their duties, they are requested to give the managers the benefit of any advice or suggestion they may see fit to offer and they will be duly considered.

Resolved, that in furtherance of this plan, a place for the accommodation of their meetings be provided and the staff be requested, and employees be directed to afford every facility to the ladies for the fulfillment of their mission." In response to this call from the Board of Managers a large number of ladies met and after carefully discussing the matter an organization was effected. Less than one week later an adjourned meeting was held, and in addition to the Harrisburg friends, there were present ladies from Steelton, Paxton, Duncannon and the neighboring towns.

On March 15, 1888, another large and enthusiastic meeting of the ladies was held, which resulted in forming a permanent organization to assist the Board of Managers in properly caring for the inmates of the City Hospital. The following officers were elected to serve for one year: President, Mrs. Chas. L. Bailey; vice-presidents, Mrs. A. J. Herr, Mrs. Spencer Gilbert, and Mrs. Dr. Dunott; recording secretary, Mrs. Henry McCormick; corresponding secretary, Miss Mary K. Bent; treasurer, Mrs. Wm. J. Calder.

It was decided that the name of this auxiliary association, which promised to be of such usefulness, should be the "Women's Aid Society of the City Hospital." There were forty-two ladies present, and much enthusiasm wa

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anifested in the organization. After the adoption of a constitution and by-laws, a board of managers was appointed to act as an executive branch of the society. It consisted of twelve members and met monthly, on the third Thursday. The main object of this association was to aid and care for the comfort of the unfortunates who are received into the hospital.

The ladies of Steelton, Dauphin, Paxtang, Duncannon, Middletown, Mechanicsburg, Hummelstown, New Cumberland and Highspire were invited to become members. Any woman could become a member by pledging interest and aid in the work and by the payment of one dollar per year, which entitles her to vote at the annual election of officers.

The payment of one dollar also entitles ladies who did not desire to remain as active members to become honorary members, and for twenty dollars one could take out a life membership.

It will be interesting to note the following named ladies, who signed the original constitution, many of whom are still with us, and whose early interest has never abated in this God-given work. Some, of course, have obeyed the call of the Master "to come up higher." Mrs. D. L. Jauss, Mrs. Josie Derr, Mrs. R. Hogan, Mrs. A. Fry, Mrs. W. P. Denehey, Mrs. George Douglass Ramsey, Miss Mary K. Bent, Mrs. E. B. Hummel, Mrs. M. W. Elder, Mrs. G. W. Buehler, Miss Jennie J. Dull,

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From the very date of organization down to the present time the Hospital Aid Society, consisting of the above named women, together with many others whose names do not appear, but who were none the less active, has gone steadily on with the good work.

Many are the changes that have taken place since the organization was perfected, but we think it can be said with all truthfulness that never once has the Society failed to respond to the call of duty. It has been interested in and has taken an active part in those things that pertained to the best welfare of the Hospital. The members have visited the sick, ministered to their wants, both spiritual and physical, always supplying them in so far as it was possible to do so.

It would be strange indeed if during this long period of time cases of extraordinary interest had not come under

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the notice of the committee. We are glad to say that they have. In the visitation work men and women have been met with from all walks in life. Some, of course, needed sympathy more than others, particularly the friendless ones, and those who were a long distance from home. Many, very many, have entered the Hospital strangers to that higher and nobler life of which the man of Nazareth is the example, who on leaving could say, and have said, "I've found Him, of whom Moses in the law and the prophets did write—Jesus, the Christ," and they have gone on their way rejoicing.

A great deal of personal work has been done from time to time and much good has resulted. Of course it would be impossible to state all that has been accomplished by the Ladies' Aid Society. Suffice it to say that they have done what they could, and some day when the work down here is finished and all are called to stand in the presence of the King, the Master's voice may be heard saying: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one, the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

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### The Charter of the Ibarrisburg Ibospital

Is enrolled in "Charter Book No. 8," in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, at Harrisburg, May 9, 1873, pages 471, 472, 473, 474.

ARTICLE I—Confers corporate style as the "Harrisburg Hospital for the Reception and Cure of the Sick and Infirm," with authority to carry on its transactions, of every description, under that title.

ARTICLE II—Defines its object and gives power to hold improved and dispose of real estate.

ARTICLE III—The management of this corporation shall be vested in a Board composed of twelve Managers and a Treasurer, to be elected by the contributors on the first Monday in May, of each year, to serve one year, and until others are chosen. Each contributor, who shall have paid the sum of thirty dollars or more to the foundation, endowment or continuance of said Hospital or Dispensary, shall be entitled to one vote at every such election. No loss or impediment to corporate 'powers shall take place by reason of any omission to elect at the time specified; but the same Managers shall continue to enjoy and exercise all the powers vested in them until an election shall duly be held on a succeeding anniversary of said day.

ARTICLE IV—The Board of Managers shall meet regularly on the last Monday of every month, seven of their number constituting a quorum; and on the first meeting

after their election in May, shall elect from their own number a President and Secretary, and also such medical and other officers as may in their judgment be required for the effective management of the Hospital and Dispensary. They shall have power to fill vacancies in their own body which may be occasioned by death, resignation, removal from the country, or otherwise, and the persons by them chosen shall continue to be Managers until the next annual election. Nothing in this article shall be construed so as to prevent a re-election of the same Managers.

ARTICLE V—The Board of Managers shall have control and charge of the property, government, management, domestic economy, business and concerns of the Hospital Dispensary, and shall have power to make all rules and regulations in their judgment necessary for the government, management and control of the Hospital and Dispensary, and of all persons employed in its service.

ARTICLE VI—At all elections of Managers the vote shall be taken by ballot. The person voted for who shall have the highest number of votes shall be declared elected, and a written return of each election shall be certified by the person or persons appointed to conduct such election to the Board of Managers, and entered upon their minutes.

ARTICLE VII—Confers power to apply to the Supreme Court for amendments or alterations to the Charter.

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### Rules.

#### Adopted by the Corporate Contributors.

- 1. The Managers of the Hospital, for the time being, shall have the power of disposing of all moneys paid to the Treasurer for the building, furnishing, support, use and service of the Hospital, and for the renting and furnishing a house or houses for the reception of patients until a Hospital shall be built.
- 2. They shall likewise have the power to direct the manner and terms of receiving and discharging patients; and all officers and servants belonging to the Hospital, other than the Treasurer, shall be appointed by and under the direction of the Managers, who shall allow and order their respective salaries, and may displace them and appoint others.
- 3. The Managers shall have the power to call general meetings of the contributors as often as they judge it necessary for the service and advantage of the Hospital, and shall cause due and public notice to be given of the time, place, design, or purpose of such occasional meeting, at least ten days before the same is to be held, and shall nominate some discrete member to preside therein.

- 4. They shall also settle the account with the Treasurer from time to time, and take care that all laws, rules and orders made by the contributors be duly and faithfully executed, for all which, or any other service relating to the Hospital, they shall not claim, receive or retain any fee, gratuity, or reward whatsoever.
- 5. The Managers shall meet at least once a month at the Hospital, or some other fit place in the city of Harrisburg, to confer and conclude concerning the matters hereby committed to them; and shall cause fair minutes of their proceedings to be kept by their Secretary, in a book to be provided for that purpose, and seven Managers shall form a quorum for the transaction of business.
- 6. That every Treasurer hereafter chosen shall, before entering on the duties of his office, enter into an obligation with one sufficient surety in double the value that may probably come into his hands; that he will once in three months or oftener, if required, render his accounts to the Managers of the Hospital, and well and truly account,

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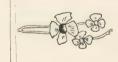
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adjust and settle with them, when required for and concerning all moneys that shall come into his hands belonging to the said contributors, and pay the balance that shall appear on such settlement to be in his hands unto such persons or for such service as the Managers for the time being shall order and appoint, and not otherwise; and that he will at the expiration of his office, well and truly deliver up and pay the balance of the money then remaining in his hands, together with the book of accounts concerning the same, and all other papers and writings in his keeping belonging to contributors, unto his successor in said office.

7. That the place and hour of the election of Managers shall be appointed by the Managers of the current year, and public notice thereof shall be given by the Secretary at least ten days previous thereto, in one newspaper in the city of Harrisburg, and the said Managers shall, and are hereby required and empowered to nominate three discreet members of the corporation to inspect and judge

the said election, and declare who are the persons elected, and the Managers shall cause their Secretary to enter in their books of minute the names of persons elected, according to the tickets.

- 8. That before the Managers for the time being proceed to erect any building for the said Hospital, a plan of such proposed building, with the estimate of the expense, shall be prepared and laid before the general meeting of the contributors for their consideration; and the approbation of the members present at any meeting shall be obtained before the same is carried into execution.
- 9. That any individual, corporation, or manufacturing company who shall contribute the sum of three hundred and sixty-five dollars, shall upon the payment of the same into the treasury, have the right to nominate and send in one patient regularly to the Hospital during one year thereafter, subject to the regulations ordained in the By-Laws.

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### Resolution Authorizing the Ladies' Aid So-ciety to Solicit Funds.

. .

EXTRACT FROM THE "JOURNAL OF THE HARRISBURG HOSPITAL," APRIL 29, 1889.

- "WHEREAS, In the absence of any regular income for the support of the Harrisburg Hospital, either from public appropriation or from any endowment funds, it is desirable to secure regular means to carry on the work; therefore,
- "Be it resolved, That we appeal to the people of this city and vicinity to agree to contribute a certain sum per month, as to them may seem right. This subscription to be paid to the treasurer of the Hospital quarterly or annually, as the contributor may specify. If at any time

the contributor, for any reason, shall see proper to discontinue his subscription, he shall give two months' notice of such desire, and after the expiration of such notice he or she shall not be liable for further payments. And for the carrying out of this plan,

- "Be it resolved, That the Ladies' Association be respectfully solicited to take charge of the subscription books, and by districting the city, through committees, give the entire community an opportunity to help this worthy charity.
- "Resolved, That the secretary send a copy of this resolution to the Ladies' Aid Society.

"A. BOYD HAMILTON, Secretary."